

# Comments on the distribution of Cape Teal *Anas capensis*

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Baker (2003) has summarised the distribution and status of the Cape Teal *Anas capensis*, principally its northern populations. This note presents some supplementary data and comments.

## Southern-African population

The northern-most records attributed to this population are from Zambia. Baker's map shows the most north-easterly plot in the Kasanka/Bangweulu area, but there is no record from there, and this is apparently a slip for Luanshya (13°08'S, 28°25'E), on the Copperbelt (Taylor 1982). The species is known from ten 30-minute squares in Zambia (Dowsett *et al.* in prep.), rather than nine, essentially as a vagrant; the two breeding records were from the extreme west in 1964 (Benson & Pitman 1966), a very cold winter during which several species irrupted into Zambia from southern Africa. There is no evidence for Baker's suggestion of an increase of sightings in Zambia: on the contrary, there has been no certain record since 1981.

There is also an acceptable Malawi record, not mentioned by Baker, from Bunda dam, Lilongwe District (14°11'S, 33°48'E) (Douglas & Lomosse 1981).

## Rift Valley-centred population

Baker (2003) does not mention Zaire, although his map suggests Cape Teal might occur in the north-east. It is on the Zaire list (Dowsett 1993b, Pedersen 2004) on the basis of a bird shot with a .375 rifle by Mouritz (1914) in November or December 1911 (it was not saved; there can't have been much left). This was on a stream in the Katanga, in the Moushosi (Musoshi) area (c. 11°55'S, 27°47'E). This is an unlikely place and date for this species, and his account gives no details of how it was identified (it is almost the only duck he mentions). It is probable that Mouritz misidentified this bird: there were, for many years, claimed specimens from the Copperbelt and north-eastern Zambia which, on examination, turned out to be Garganey *Anas querquedula* (Benson *et al.* 1970).

On the other hand, Chapin (1932) mentions his own sight record from brackish water at Katwe, Lake Edward (c. 08°00'S, 29°53'E), noting the key identification feature. This would presumably be from Uganda rather than Zaire and, if acceptable, would be the first and only record from that country.



## Chad basin-centred population

### *Central African Republic and Cameroon*

Both these countries were included in the range by Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1970), followed by Scott & Rose (1996) among others. This duck has never been reported from C.A.R. (e.g. Dowsett 1993a, Dowsett *et al.* 1999). There is one report from northern Cameroon (Ngaoundere, i.e. lac Dang at 07°26'N, 13°33'E), eight on 17 October 1992 reported by S. Keen in the Bulletin of the African Bird Club (vol 1, p28) though not yet formally documented in print.

### *Djibouti*

Though not mentioned by Baker (2003), but Cape Teal has been recorded by Laurent (1990) in this country.

### *Niger*

The Nguigmi record of 80 birds in December 1964 (Hopson 1965) is from the Niger side of Lake Chad (14°15'N, 13°07'E), not Nigeria as listed by Baker. This record was overlooked by Giraudoux *et al.* (1988), who gave the one other record for that country as Cheri oasis (13°26'N, 11°21'E), two on 24 August 1975.

### *Chad*

The only really large numbers are the 300 reported from Chad by Vieillard (1972). Otherwise, there are records from Baga Sola, Lake Chad (13°32'N, 14°19'E) a few on 15 December 1969 (Fry 1970); Arada (15°01'N, 20°39'E) four on 2 August 1977 (Newby 1979); lac Yoan d'Ounianga Kébir (19°10'N, 21°35'E) 50–60 from 1 to 12 December 1963 (collected); *ibid.* 24 April 1954 (Salvan 1967).

It was only *thought* to have been seen on the Logone river in October 1945 by Anna (in Salvan 1967), a record best treated as unproven. The records from Kufra oasis were, indeed, from Libya and reported as extralimital by Salvan (1967). Later observations there included two pairs displaying in early April 1968 (Cramp & Conder 1970).

### *Nigeria*

It is useful to clarify the records from northern Nigeria. Those that I know of are:

Bulatura potash oasis (13°20'N, 11°10'E) up to 50, September, December and February 1973–6 (Hall 1976a). This is the same location as the soda lake north of Yusufari mentioned by Baker (2003).

Minetti and Dowoshiram (south-east shore of Lake Chad) including two at Minetti (c. 12°50'N, 13°30'E) November (Hall 1976b, Hall 1977).

Malamfatori (13°37'N, 13°20'E) listed by Hopson (1965), and one seen on 24 September 1968 (pers. obs., see below); more recently up to 20 on 24 August and 11 September 2000 (Gustafsson *et al.* 2003).



Kazaure (12°39'N, 08°23'E) six on 6 April 1979 (Sharland & Wilkinson 1981).

Zaria (11°03'N, 07°42'E) a single vagrant on 17–18 November 1975 (Dyer 1977).

Thus there is no published Nigerian record for the period between 7 April and 23 August, which covers the rains, the known breeding period in western Sudan (Lynes 1925). The statement by Elgood *et al.* (1994) that the species is resident in Nigeria is unproven. Note that the two extreme vagrant records from saltpans in coastal Ghana are December and March (Grimes 1987).

I saw this duck at Lake Chad only once in 1968, despite sailing to most shores of the lake, which was large in those days. There were a number of brackish areas, and locally some salt extraction, as described by Alexander (1907). Although Alexander noted only 'occasional duck that were very wild' on his first of two voyages on the lake, to the east side, in early December, he did collect the species (Bannerman 1930, Hutson & Bannerman 1930). Despite Vieillard's records, I doubt the population there has ever been in the hundreds, except very transiently. The suggested total of 500 for the Lake Chad basin (Baker 2003) appears generous, and the absence of any movements from other areas remains to be proven.

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